

AN EMPIRE IN ITSELF

OF ALL THE YOUNG COMMON-WEALTHS THAT EVER WERE

OKLAHOMA IS BEST

UNEQUALLED NATURAL ADVANTAGES TO START WITH,

FORTUNATE IN HER POSSESSORS

AND HAS MADE PROGRESS NEVER BEFORE DREAMED OF.

Governor Barnes Tells of Her Soil, Climate, People, Products and Institutions in a Report of Extraordinary Interest

Guthrie, O. T., Oct. 18.—(Special).—Following is an abstract of the annual report of Governor Barnes:

To the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Sir:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of Oklahoma Territory for the year ending June 30, 1897.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It has been but seven years since Oklahoma was created a territory, yet it is today one of the most talked about and read about portions of the United States. In these seven years it has made greater progress than have most commonwealths in three times that length of time. At the election last fall 53,000 votes were cast—31,000 more than in Florida and 22,000 more than in Delaware, and the territory outranks a dozen different states in population.

Oklahoma has never had a boom and has never suffered the consequent collapse. It has been a steady growth and progress from the start.

Blessed with abundant crops during the year and with still better prospects for the future, Oklahoma farmers are prosperous and hopeful and the prosperity of the farmer has brought prosperity to all other classes.

Business is reviving in every channel, large amounts of the products of the soil are going to outside markets, outside capital is coming in to seek investment, considerable building is going on both in town and country, and the outlook for the future is indeed bright for Oklahoma and her people.

No portion of the United States today offers a more inviting prospect to the homeseeker—farmer, business man or artisan, and nowhere is there a better field for the sale and profitable investment of capital.

POPULATION.

The true Oklahoma is the embodiment of courage, thrift, energy and enterprise, an optimist of optimism, a conquerer of a new world, reaching out for other things, overcoming obstructions and difficulties that to most men would seem insurmountable.

The population as returned by the assessors for 1896 was slightly in excess of 275,000. No enumeration was taken this year, but as there has been during the entire year a steady immigration and no emigration worth speaking of, it can be safely estimated that the population is now considerable in excess of 300,000.

The immigration during the past year has been of the best character, mostly farmers and stockmen from northern and eastern states, coming with ready money to purchase claims and farms, and make substantial improvements thereon.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

In spite of the financial depression of the past three years, which has caused a general shrinkage in values, the assessed valuation of the territory has not lessened from \$19,337,946.86 in 1894 to \$22,044,752.09 in 1897. In a majority of the counties the property is returned for taxation at very much less than its real value. It can safely be stated that the assessed valuation should be from sixty to seventy millions, instead of thirty-two millions.

TAXES.

The total territorial tax for the year is 4.3 mills, divided as follows: General territorial tax, 3 mills; normal school tax, 1 mill; university tax, 1 mill; college building bond interest tax, 1.5 mill; for the care and education of deaf mutes, 1.25 mill; for the care and education of the blind, 1.30 mill.

To this must be added the county and district school taxes, which are at least much higher, but the average county tax during the past year has been 2 1/2 per cent, which, when the very low valuation of property is considered, makes the taxes not greater than in any enterprising and flourishing community. The territorial tax is much smaller than that of any other western state or territory.

A very large addition will be made to the real estate subject to taxation each year, as the title to homestead lands are perfected by settlers, and there will be a consequent reduction of the tax rate in each county.

INDEBTEDNESS.

The territory has a bonded indebtedness of \$45,000, bearing 6 per cent interest per annum payable in July at the Western National bank in New York city. These bonds were issued in 1893 to aid in the construction of the buildings for the Territorial University, the Agricultural and Mechanical college and the Normal school, and are redeemable at any time after ten years.

The normal school fund and the University fund are practically out of debt and on a cash basis.

The general fund indebtedness has gradually increased year by year since the organization of the territory, the expenses each year overrunning the revenues by reason of failure to collect full amount of taxes levied, thereby creating a casual deficit which now amounts to about \$100,000, including interest accrued on outstanding warrants. All warrants issued by the auditor draw no interest until registered with the treasurer, after which they draw 6 per cent until paid. Under the territorial law warrants are paid in the order of their registration, and the treasurer calls them in for redemption whenever he

has as much as \$1,000 on hand applicable to their payment, and the interest stops when said call is issued.

If in contemplation of the future it is in the near future as may seem wise and practicable to enhance the value, or rather the market price, of general fund warrants, which it appears to me, is unjustifiable low at the present time.

EDUCATION.

The work of the higher territorial educational institutions during the past year has been effective and deserves the highest commendation. The faculties of each are able and earnest educators whose work speaks for itself in the success of each one of the institutions and their management and conduct meet the approval and praise of the patrons.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The first legislative assembly of the territory provided for the location of a university at Norman, the county seat of Cleveland county, a city of about three thousand inhabitants. A large pressed brick and white stone building containing twenty-one recitation, assembly and office rooms, has been erected on a campus containing forty acres of ground. The same legislature provided for the support of the university, a tax levy of one-half mill on all taxable property of the territory.

The work of the university is divided into a preparatory, collegiate, pharmaceutical and musical departments. It is expected to add other departments as the resources of the institution will permit. There is already strong demand for both law and a medical department. The enrollment of the university for the first year was 172. Every county of the territory was represented. Classified as to the occupation of parents, 103 were the children of farmers, twenty-two of merchants, fourteen of lawyers and twenty-six miscellaneous. The enrollment the first year was 112, the second year 137, the third year 142, the fourth year 149 and the fifth and last year, 172. The indications all point to an attendance of considerable over two hundred students the coming year.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The work of this college is well stated by the law of congress making annual appropriations for its support. This provides that the funds granted under this act can be used "only for instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language, and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural and economic science, with special reference to their application in the industries of life." Under this law the college received \$22,000 for the ensuing year. It also receives one-third of the rental received from sections thirteen in the Cherokee outlet. As substantial and well arranged college building has been erected, but is already over crowded. By gift of the citizens of Stillwater the college owns a tract of 200 acres of land. The laws of the territory indicate the intention that this shall be especially a college for the people and not for any one class. No fees of any kind are required from students. Pupils are admitted direct from the common schools. The full course of four years leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science, but it is arranged to give the graduates help to see able to attend for only one or two years. As a department of the college, an agricultural experiment station has been established, receiving annually \$15,000 from the United States government. This station makes use of the greater part of the 200 hundred acres for its field experiments. During the past year, there were 131 students in attendance. There are indications of a marked increase in attendance for the coming year.

THE NORMAL AT EDMOND.

The legislature of 1891 authorized the establishment of the Territorial Normal School, and it was the first of the territorial institutions to open its doors to the students seeking a higher education. With minor exceptions, however, the institution has prospered from the very start, and year by year it has grown in popularity, and the session just closed under the management of President D. Murdaugh, had an attendance of about 200 students and judging from the correspondence and inquiries there will be in the coming year not less than 300 students.

The building, together with furniture and fixtures, has cost about \$35,000. This school is entirely out of debt.

The principal aim of the Normal school is to fully equip the teacher for his important work.

THE NORMAL AT ALVA.

Provision was made by the Fourth general assembly for the establishment of a new normal school at Alva, in Woods county, Oklahoma, and the board of regents of the Edmond Normal school is charged with the management and control of the new school. Ample provision was also made for its maintenance.

Alva is situated in the heart of a very thickly inhabited portion and in the middle western part of the territory and in what is known as the Cherokee strip, and the establishment of this school is due personal to the desire of the legislature to recognize the political importance and claims of the west, and the necessity for the immediate necessity for actual educational purposes. However, if present crop prospects are realized this fall the capacity of all our territorial educational institutions will be severely tested and the necessity for this new school will be demonstrated this year and the wisdom of its establishment by the legislature can be no longer questioned. It is but fair to add that the people of the town of Alva donated forty acres of land as suitable site for this school and voted an issue of \$5,000 in bonds, the proceeds to be used to erect a suitable school building. This school will be open for students this season.

NORMAL UNIVERSITY.

The Fourth general assembly also provided for the location and establishment of the Colored Agricultural and Normal University, the exclusive purpose of which is the instruction of both male and female colored persons in the art of teaching and the various branches of the normal and university education and in each higher education as may be deemed advisable, and in the fundamental laws of the United States, in the rights and duties of citizens and in the agricultural, mechanical and industrial arts.

This school is to be under the direction of a board of regents. This board will be organized at as early a date as possible, and in a way to effectually inaugurate for the colored people a first-class educational institution with a faculty composed exclusively of colored teachers. The establishment of this school by enactment by a Popular legislature and with the approval of a Democratic gov-

ernor indicates the progress and development of the great republican doctrine that all men are created free and equal and are entitled to equal rights, benefits and privileges as well as the decline and decay of prejudice against the colored people as a race.

The school will be located at Langston, in Logan county, which is the only exclusive colored city in the United States, and whose people will donate forty acres of land suitable for a site for the institution.

Oklahoma may well be proud of her public schools. In the earliest days of the territory, before there were school laws of any kind, school houses were built by subscription and children at once given the benefit of free schools in almost every community. The school laws enacted by the first legislature and added to later, give Oklahoma one of the best public school systems in the Union. There are in territory 1,500 organized school districts. About 1,500 of these have substantial and comfortable school houses, the others holding school in rented quarters. Every town of any size has graded schools and the more important cities have a complete system of graded schools which graduate classes annually. Nearly all the city school buildings are substantial, modern structures of brick and stone, many costing from ten thousand to twenty thousand dollars.

A regular course of study is prescribed for the district schools by the territorial board of education, and many county superintendents are grading their schools and providing uniform rules for their government. In the towns from seven to nine months school is held, and in the country districts from four to seven months, and people contemplating common school advantages in even the remotest corner of the territory.

In a few instances there has been some little friction over the question of mixed or separate schools for colored or white children, but separate schools are now maintained in nearly all parts of the territory. The colored children are given identically the same advantage as the white. The school enumeration for 1897 has not yet been fully reported, but it is certain that it is largely increased over the enumeration for last year, which was 88,705.

Every county in the territory holds a normal teacher's institute from three to six weeks each year, and the standard of teaching is being steadily raised. A source of much revenue for the public schools are the school lands reserved by congress to be leased and the proceeds distributed per capita of school population among the various districts of the territory.

During the year just closing \$71,722.33 has been so distributed, making 31 cents per capita, going to the different counties.

OTHER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

In addition to the excellent common schools and the higher territorial institutions of learning, there are a number of schools and colleges of a private and sectarian nature.

The Congregational church has a college at Kingfisher and an academy at Perry. The Roman Catholics have parochial schools in most of the towns, a seminary for girls at Guthrie, a college at Sacred Heart, several large mission schools in the Osage National, as well as missions among the Kiowas and Comanches. The Episcopalians have a college among the Shawnees and Kickapoo Indians, and the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians and Congregationalists have mission schools and mission stations among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches. Well up toward a hundred thousand dollars was spent in the erection of a new school building at latter tribes alone during the past year.

The Methodists will build a hall in connection with the territorial university, and flourishing business colleges are being conducted at Guthrie, El Reno, Oklahoma City and Shawnee.

The government schools for Indians form an important part of the educational work of Oklahoma. On each reservation are the regular reservation schools with comfortable buildings, excellent equipment and efficient teachers; the schools at Darlington, Pawnee and Shawnee deserving special mention. At Chillicoee is Haworth Institute with magnificent stone buildings and modern equipment, costing considerably over a hundred thousand dollars, a corps of a score or more of teachers and five hundred scholars representing all of the Indian tribes of the southwest.

It is unfortunate, however, that the employees at these government schools have been placed in the classified list of public servants. To insure active, energetic service on the part of the teachers, the good lands of the reservation should be entirely at the discretion of the Indian Bureau, and in the reservation schools under the direction of the Indian agent.

DEAF MUTES AND BLIND.

The fourth legislative assembly provided for the levying of a territorial tax of one-twentieth of a mill for the care and education of the deaf mutes, and the same amount for the blind. A law has been levied, the first installment will be collected in December next, and it is hoped to have full provisions made for these unfortunate by January 1, 1898.

REFORM SCHOOL.

By legislative action the governor is authorized to contract with any other state for the correction and education of incorrigible youth, but owing to the lack of an appropriation for that purpose no contract has yet been made, though it is hoped that it will be found practicable to carry out the intent of the law, should necessity arising seem to demand it.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The insane of the territory are cared for by contract with the Oklahoma Sanitarium company, whose large and commodious hospital is located near the town of Norman. There are confined there at present 143 patients, a net increase of seventeen during the year. Under the contracts, the territory pays \$35 a month for each patient, the amount paid for the year ending June 30 aggregating \$39,812.75. The cost of transportation was \$2,857.49 for the year.

The laws regulating the admission and discharge of patients are crude and unsatisfactory, and it is quite possible that a number of those committed by the various counties would be more properly cared for at home for the indigent and poor rather than at an asylum for the insane.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

In a social and religious way Okla-

homa will compare favorably with any state in the Union. The people have the same social connections, attend the same gatherings, belong to the same churches and listen to the same preaching of the same gospel and worship in the same way as the people of Ohio, New York and New England. The same social customs are observed, the same manner of dress prevails as are found in any civilized and enlightened community. There is no border ruffianism, no every day open outlaws, no semi-civilized barbarity such as is depicted in some unscientific journals or has long been in the minds of misguided and uninformed individuals in unprogressive communities.

The percentage of crime among all classes is lower than in half the states of the Union, all laws are as a general thing enforced and churches and other religious institutions receive liberal support.

Nearly every town has its literary society or Chautauqua circle; good lecture courses are carried on, the best of concerts, and theatrical entertainments well patronized, and the legislative and inaugural banquets and gatherings of note at the capital and other leading cities will bear the closest comparison with similar affairs in any state or territory.

All of the leading religious branches of work are carried on and the fraternal organizations are strong and effective.

THE PRESS.

The press of Oklahoma will compare favorably with any portion of the United States. There are published in the territory at present ten daily and eighty weekly papers, and twelve monthly publications.

The standard of most of these papers is kept well up to the average and the editors are all loyal and energetic in advancing the best interests of the territory and of their particular localities. An active editorial association holds semi-annual meetings to discuss matters looking toward the advancement of the profession.

VACANT LANDS.

There are yet many thousands of acres of unoccupied government lands in Oklahoma, much of which is excellent agricultural and fruit land and offers a chance for homes for thousands of settlers, either wholly free or at the low government price of from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre. Reports from the registers and receivers of the various land districts in the territory give the number of acres in each district subject to homestead entry as follows:

Guthrie district—No lands subject to entry.

Oklahoma City district—There are 355,670 acres open to settlement. Most of this land is in Woodward and Custer counties and can be secured by section 16 and payment of \$1.50 per acre at the end of five years. There are many fine farms still unoccupied in this district.

Kingfisher district—Of unappropriated and unreserved lands there are 10,216 acres in Blaine county, 730 in Canadian, 219,160 in D. D. 240 in Kingfisher, 558,520 in LeFlore, 114,680 in Custer and 103,280 acres in Roger Mills county, making 1,146,336 for the district.

An inspection of these vacant lands will reveal scores of fine homesteads suitable for general farming, and if a man desires to devote his attention to stock raising he can find no better location anywhere. This land costs \$1.50 per acre and the farmers of all these counties have produced abundant crops the past year and during the years preceding. An erroneous idea has obtained that these counties are without sufficient rainfall to produce crops. While this is true of portions in the extreme west, the records of weather observers in Custer and Washita counties show a greater average rainfall in crop seasons than any other parts of the territory and there has been no crop failure there in the past five years for men who planted and cultivated with care.

Alva district—The records of the land office show 434,554 acres of unappropriated land. This can be had for \$1 and \$1.50 per acre. Much of it is good agricultural land and all fine for grazing purposes. Water is easily obtained and crops find a ready home market among the cattlemen to the west and south. It is a notable fact that in this district has been found the only artesian water in the territory.

Woodward district—There still remain 4,877,800 acres of vacant land subject to homestead entry lying in Woodward and Beaver counties. The land in Woodward county can be homesteaded at \$1 per acre, in Beaver county a settler can obtain 160 acres by simply paying the land office fee, amounting to but \$14. All of this land is the very finest for grazing and there are thousands of acres along the streams and level stretches of prairie where farming can be very profitably carried on. Fruit of many kinds does well in this section and can be obtained for partial irrigation the growth and yield of all kinds of crops is immense. Parts of Beaver county are remarkably adapted to the successful growing of apples. Thousands of people can find good homes on these lands.

Mid district—There are but 1,100 acres of unoccupied land in Grant and Garfield counties, the good lands having been mostly taken up in 1895 and being now under profitable cultivation.

Perry district—The good lands are about all occupied. Pawnee county has 2,638 acres and Noble county 217 acres vacant, some of which is good grazing and fruit land.

Mangum district (three counties)—Greer county was long considered a part of Texas but was given to Oklahoma by a decision of the supreme court of the United States, March 16, 1896, and was by congress at once created a separate land district with a land office at Mangum and a provision for throwing the unoccupied land open to settlement early in 1897.

H. D. McNight, register of the land office, writes of the district as follows: "This land district contains in round numbers 1,172,668 acres. In June we received 12,320 acres, leaving 1,160,348 acres open to settlement July 1. It is estimated that there are 2,000 preference rights existing in the county, which are entitled to 320 acres each, which will take 640,000 acres and leave 520,348 acres open to homestead settlement with only the land office fee to pay to secure 160 acres."

"Persons who are not preference right holders can file at any time making application that their land be not claimed by a preference right settler, and the majority of those who have filed have done so in this way. Greer is one of the best counties in Oklahoma and the soil is well suited for corn, cotton, wheat and oats, but most anything will grow and produce in abundance if put

in the ground and tended as it should be, regardless of the statements that this is only a grazing country. I never saw such crops anywhere as are grown in this county this year. Where has averaged 25 bushels to the acre and oats three times as much. Corn and cotton look fine. All laws are enforced and the people are unusually law-abiding. There is not one person in our jail and has not been since the May term of court, and but one man under bond. I never saw poorer people in my life than live in this county."

Thousands of the homeless people of the states will undoubtedly find comfortable and prosperous homes on these vacant lands in the territory, and I hope that all that are available will be speedily taken up.

SCHOOL LANDS.

There are about 2,000 sections of common school college and public building lands in the territory, exclusive of Greer county. Sections 16 and 36 in each township were set apart by act of congress for the benefit of common schools. Indemnity lands, 10,000 acres in the Kickapoo country and 23,000 acres in Woodward county, have been selected in lieu of sections 16 and 36 in the Osage, Ponca, Otoe and Missouri reservations, the eastern, middle and western Saline reserve and deficiencies on account of fractional townships, etc., and are nearly all leased.

In Pawnee, Noble, Kay, Grant, Woods and Woodward counties common school sections 16 and 36 are reserved for the use of the Agricultural College at Stillwell, the Normal at Edmond and the University at Norman, and the latter for the erection of public buildings.

East of range 14 west of the Indian meridian these lands are leased by the quarter section, limiting each lessee to one quarter, at an average yearly rental of about \$5. Lessees limited to three years. Lessees desiring to renew their leases are given preference rights upon certain conditions and are amply protected in their improvements.

West of range 14 west, the lands are leased principally by the section for grazing purposes, the minimum price being \$35 a year per section, and in Beaver county \$30 per section. Counting by quarters, there are about 8,000 quarters leased, or nearly two-thirds of the entire amount outside of Greer county.

There are many quarter sections of good agricultural land still unleased, which will make very desirable homes for new settlers and the system of transferring leases enables persons to buy out lessees on excellent improved quarters, often with growing crops thereon and secure comfortable homes in productive farms at a very low figure.

The school land department is well organized, transacting a large amount of business in a most expeditious manner. In addition to arranging all the leases, collecting rentals and making transfers of leases this department looks after the appraising of the improvements on the lands, furnishes to all inquirers lists of vacant lands and full information as to the method of leasing, transfer, etc., and transacts a greater amount of business than any other territorial department.

It is estimated that three hundred new leases will be made at the public leasing to be had this fall, and that nearly, if not all, of the old leases, whose leases expire the present year, will renew. It is the intention to commence leasing not later than January next in Greer county, where four sections in each township have been reserved for common schools, colleges and public buildings.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Oklahoma's banking interests are in a prosperous condition. There are in the territory five national and forty-nine territorial or private banks. The last legislature passed an act for the regulation and control of the territorial and private banks, compelling all to become incorporated and providing for regular reports and an annual examination by a territorial bank examiner, which was created by the act.

Nearly all of the forty-nine banks have been examined and in each case the reserve has been found to be in excess of that required by law. The maximum cash reserve allowed by law is 15 per cent—the actual reserve was 55 per cent. Practically all these deposits are owned by farmers and business men. Examiner Pugh says the deposits have increased 25 per cent in the last two months, which goes to show that the farmers and business men are getting on a cash basis and are enjoying bank accounts. This is a remarkable showing for so young a territory where everything has been taken out of the earth in from four to eight years.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

Oklahoma's law provides thoroughly for the organization, management and encouragement of building and loan associations, but owing to the cramped financial condition of many localities in the past but few organizations have been organized, one each at Guthrie, Shawnee, Norman and Pawnee. All these associations are flourishing and paying good semi-annual dividends. The Guthrie association, that has been in existence six years, has nearly \$100,000 in capital subscribed, about one-third of which is paid up, and has made about 120 loans, almost every one meaning the construction of a new home to be owned by the borrower.

The dividends of the first four years exceeded 24 per cent per annum; the past two years have been about 12 per cent per annum.

RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH.

Oklahoma has within her borders 475 miles of railway, about 20 miles of which were built the past year—The Hutchinson and Southern from Hutchinson to Medford, and the Air Line from Tecumseh to Shawnee, the latter line being built and operated by enterprising citizens of Tecumseh.

Many new lines are projected in the territory, and it seems reasonably sure that a line will be built during the year from Sapulpa or thereabouts southward through Oklahoma; that the Hutchinson and Southern will extend southeast from Medford and the Choctaw west from El Reno.

All of the railway, express and telegraph companies operating in the territory report largely increased business the past few months.

Deep water at Galveston, Fort Arthur and other Texas points has resulted in lower freight rates and a consequent increase in the price of farm products. The one thing needed is the cultivation of closer trade relations with these Texas ports, which would result in the railways carrying loaded cars each way instead of but half-loaded and being a still further reduction of freight rates.

The Western Union Telegraph com-

BULLETIN OF The Wichita Daily Eagle.

Wichita, Tuesday, October 19, 1897.

Weather for Wichita today:
Fair; warmer; southeast winds.
Sun—Rises, 6:13; sets, 5:14.
Moon—Waning; rises 12:00.

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pany has offices at all the cities and towns on the railways and the principal inland towns are connected by telephone with each other and the railway and telegraph stations.

MANUFACTURING.

Comparatively little has been done toward developing manufacturing industries in Oklahoma during the years of its existence, though within the past year more attention has been given to this subject. Oklahoma four took first premium at the World's Fair and is well known in all the markets of the south-west. Nearly every town of any importance has one or more good flouring mills, six or eight having been erected during the past year. Canning factories are running at Guthrie, Oklahoma City and Alva, and the immense fruit crop of the territory would make them profitable enterprises at many other points. Five distilleries have been started in the territory for the manufacture of peach brandy, and two creameries are being successfully operated, with movements on foot to start several others. The product of these dairies finds a ready market at a good price, and a half dozen more would all be paying industries.

A cotton seed oil mill paid over 25 per cent dividend the past year at Norman, and a score of cotton gins scattered over the territory were run to their utmost capacity. Cotton compresses are being put in at El Reno and Tecumseh, and the number of cotton gins in the territory will be more than tripled this year.

At Shawnee the Choctaw railway shops are nearing completion; Oklahoma City and El Reno have iron foundries, and Guthrie a bicycle factory. Every town has its local newspaper and printing plants and at Guthrie there are two book binding and manufacturing establishments in connection with printing plants, employing an average of forty people each year round.

Oklahoma City has an yeast and vinegar works at Newark a cement works has been located; near Okemah salt is being manufactured for the market, while nearly every town has its local carriage works, planing mill, brick yards and saw quarries.

AGRICULTURE.

Oklahoma's progress in agriculture has been in keeping with her advance in all things and this year she comes before the people with the greatest crop of grains and other products ever raised upon an equal area of land.

The partial failures of the farmers the past few years in Oklahoma were due more from a failure to plant the right thing at the right time than from any lack of rain or fault of the climate. Few settlers realized how far south they had come, and as a consequence the crops of seasons and how differently must the crops be raised. Each year they have learned better how to farm successfully in this latitude, until this year their efforts seem all to have been crowned with success and a crop record made which establishes the world.

Wheat—Farmers have generally been successful in raising wheat in the territory and an extra large acreage put in last fall, with a winter and spring favorable to its growth and development, produced a crop this year that is really marvelous in its magnitude. The total yield of the territory will surely reach 30,000,000 bushels or over, and shows 30,000,000 bushels per acre that are almost beyond belief. The harvest began in May and early in June Oklahoma was marketing train loads of wheat.

Few fields fall below eighteen bushels per acre, while the general average is undoubtedly in excess of twenty-five bushels. Fields of one hundred acres or more yielded as high as thirty-four bushels per acre straight through, and many smaller tracts ran to forty and forty-five bushels.

At the experiment station at Stillwater several varieties went over fifty bushels per acre and a well authenticated yield is reported from Kay county of four acres running fifty-five bushels per acre.

Many fields of from forty to forty-five and forty-eight bushels are reported on the best of authority, and the buyers and mill men report the wheat as well filled as to overrun in weight from four to eight pounds per bushel. Kay county is the banner wheat county of the territory, and in passing through it is seemed as though the whole country was one vast wheat field.

A visitor who climbed to the court house tower in Newark, the county seat on June 26, counted 1,999 wheat stalks, and 136 straw stalks within a radius of six miles. In the southern part of the county S. W. Miller had his famous 2,500 acre wheat field, and across the river in the Osage country 600, 800 and 1,000 acre wheat fields are common.

A Logan county farmer paid off on \$100 mortgage and built a new home with his wheat crop; a Nebraska man bought a Garfield county farm for \$500 in March and realized \$300 from the wheat growing on it; a Saline county man also tried to sell out and took twenty-five dollar deposit. Last fall bought seed wheat with the money from the world-wide purchaser had backed out and sold \$500 worth of wheat this summer.

The long pleasant fall for sowing, the mild winter weather, the early harvest and the long, dry summer in which the threat and market grain with no real for storing make Oklahoma the wheat grower's paradise.

Oats—The acreage was not unusually large this year, but the yield ran from 20 to 30 bushels per acre.

(Continued on Second Page)

LUERTGER JURY OUT

CASE GIVEN TO THEM LATE IN THE AFTERNOON.

LIKELY TO DISAGREE

THIS IS THE MOST THE PROSECUTION HOPES FOR.

JUDGE'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE FAIR

INTENSE EXCITEMENT DURING THE CLOSING OF THE CASE.

Crowds Wait in and Near the Court Room For the Verdict—State's Attorney's Speech to the Jury.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—The fate of Adolph L. Luertger, accused of murdering his wife and dissolving her body in a vat filled with caustic potash, is now in the hands of the jury. Judge Tullish finished his charge to